

HAMMURABI AND ABRAHAM.¹

To the Editor of The Open Court:

Why should Hamu-Rabi be confused with the Biblical Amraphel? Each name has four consonants, yet only two in common. It seems to me that it would be easier to identify Hamu-Rabi with Abraham, since their four consonants are the same. Ibra-Hamu is a paranomasism that is not difficult.

Indeed, Khamor-Abi is Arabic for "Moon-father," and Abraham's father is said to have come out of Hur or Ur, which was the best known name of the Moon or Moon-god in Babylonia: as in Egypt the Moon-god Tachut or Decade was like Khamor-Abi, the law-giver, and Bath-Tachuti appears with Jehoah at Sinai and proclaims him, for she is Azab-ea or Sibyl, not "finger," that wrote the ten commandments, since A-Zab and Sebel both mean laborer in the sense of contortion as was the case with the classic Sibyls. But it is a long story.

Our Hebrew writings often show such examples. Thus, Noach or "Noah" is said to have found cHen or "grace"; but the two consonants which we make into Noach are N—ch, and when reversed we have cH—N, which in Egyptian is "prophet," as Khn is prophet in Ethiopic; hence the Hebrew word Cohen or "priest." So Jakob or A-Keb means in Hebrew a "wine-vat," and when read backwards we have Bak-ai, which we have in Greek as Bacch-us; hence in the wrestling at Ja-Bock (Bak-ai) he acquires the name I-Sara-El, for he is coming toward Egypt where O-Sar-is first planted the vine; and so the first thing Jacob does when he has supplanted Esau is to build Succ-oth, and Succ-oth was "Tabernacles" or the grape harvest; the Athenian O-Socha-phoria, when there were songs to Bacchus and Ari-Adan-e.

There is more important play on the name of Mosheh, our Grecised "Moses." His name is composed of the three consonants M—Sh—H, which, when reversed, may be rendered into ha—Sh—m or "the Shem," which means "the Name." On pain of death Jews were not to blaspheme "the Name," but it seems that only Mosheh may be meant, for the ancients appear to have concealed their name of Deity from their own populace, and hence these could not blaspheme it by the use of the sacred name.

HAYNEVILLE, ALA., May 16, 1903.

CONSTANTINE GRETHENBACH.

MR. AND MRS. H. L. GREEN, OBITUARY.

With deep regret even in pain and sorrow, we notice in the daily papers the news of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Green's sudden death.

The old Mr. Green was a Freethinker of the old, honest, and robust type, perhaps a little narrow but always straightforward and truth-loving, fighting the good fight, as he conceived it, always standing up for honesty and truth in religion.

For many years he was editor of *Freethought*, and he had acquired in Freethought circles the reputation of being the most decent and the ablest freethought editor in the United States. He was respected by his adversaries, and so far as we know had no personal enemies. But the cause of Freethought is not popular. Men who have positive religious convictions are willing to make sacrifices for the cause, but those whose conviction consists mainly in the negation of the religion of others

¹ For an answer to this letter see the article "Hammurabi and Amraphel" on p. 705 of the present number.